

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A technique is disclosed for reducing collisions of signals occurring on at least
5 one communication channel in an access network. The access network may include at
least one Head End, and a plurality of network nodes. Each of the network node is
configured to transmit signals to the Head End via the communication channel. Filter
parameters are included in selected communication request messages transmitted to a
first portion of nodes. According to specific embodiments, the filter parameters may be
10 used to limit the number of responses to the communication request messages which
are transmitted on the communication channel. In this way, by limiting the number of
responses which may be transmitted at specified times over the communication
channel, the likelihood of signal collisions occurring on the communication channel
may be reduced.

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